

What is claimed:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
- 5 (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or a complement thereof;
- (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a complement thereof;
- (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or a complement thereof; and
- 10 (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or a complement thereof.
2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- 15 (a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- (b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5.
- 20 3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- (b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ
- 25 ID NO: 5.

4. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 72% homologous to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, or 6, or a complement thereof;
- 5 b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 607 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, or 6, or a complement thereof;
- c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 62% homologous to the amino acid sequence of
- 10 SEQ ID NO:2 or 5; and
- d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 5, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 5.
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5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4 under stringent conditions.
6. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule
- 20 of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, and a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
7. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4.
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8. The vector of claim 7, which is an expression vector.
9. A host cell transfected with the expression vector of claim 8.
- 30 10. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 in an appropriate culture medium to, thereby, produce the polypeptide.

11. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 5, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2 or 5;
 - b) a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 5, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, or 6 under stringent conditions;
 - c) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 72% homologous to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, or 6;
 - d) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 62% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 5.
12. The isolated polypeptide of claim 11 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 5.
13. The polypeptide of claim 11, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.
14. An antibody which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 11.
15. A method for detecting the presence of a polypeptide of claim 11 in a sample comprising:
- a) contacting the sample with a compound which selectively binds to the polypeptide; and
 - b) determining whether the compound binds to the polypeptide in the sample to thereby detect the presence of a polypeptide of claim 11 in the sample.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the compound which binds to the polypeptide is an antibody.

17. A kit comprising a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 11 and instructions for use.

18. A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4 in a sample comprising:

- a) contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe or primer which selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule; and
- b) determining whether the nucleic acid probe or primer binds to a nucleic acid molecule in the sample to thereby detect the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the sample.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the sample comprises mRNA molecules and is contacted with a nucleic acid probe.

20. A kit comprising a compound which selectively hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4 and instructions for use.

21. A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:

- a) contacting the polypeptide, or a cell expressing the polypeptide with a test compound; and
- b) determining whether the polypeptide binds to the test compound.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 a) detection of binding by direct detection of test compound/polypeptide binding;
- b) detection of binding using a competition binding assay; and
- c) detection of binding using an assay for BAL activity.

23. A method for modulating the activity of a polypeptide of claim 11 comprising contacting the polypeptide or a cell expressing the polypeptide with a
10 compound which binds to the polypeptide in a sufficient concentration to modulate the activity of the polypeptide.

24. A method for identifying a compound which modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:

15 a) contacting a polypeptide of claim 12 with a test compound; and

 b) determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of the polypeptide to thereby identify a compound which modulates the activity of the polypeptide

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